The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 987. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1930. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 19, NO. 52.

Accident is unforseen order.—Novalis.

HUNGRY MEN CAN'T REASON; THIS AIDS RED-REACTION PLOT

Hungry men can not reason.

Communists are aware of this fact—hence their ease in staging unemployed demonstrations, not for purposes of relief, but for hate propaganda.

Trade unionists are not in sympathy with this program, but they disapprove Cossack tactics of police who are ordered to ride down hungry men.

To say unemployed have sympathy with Communism is to ignore the law of cause and effect. These demonstrations will cease if men are employed.

Jails and policemen's clubs have no terror for hungry men, whose wives and children are likewise hungry.

Neither have jails and policemen's clubs any terror for Communists, who welcome force that they may pose as martyrs "for the working class" and speed the day of "revolution."

Trade unionists should keep a cool head in times of depression when reaction and revolution plot to destroy the labor movement.

Reaction would cut wages and lengthen hours. Revolution would inculcate a worthless spirit of hate among workers and urge them to abandon their unions.

With Communists in control, the unions would come under the syndicalist laws of many States. Other States would quickly pass similar statutes and reaction would then demand that the State dissolve these revolutionary and criminal organizations.

Let no trade unionist delude himself that things "just happen." Reaction is alive to possibilities, providing organized workers cease to think steadily and correctly.

Communists are of inestimable value to reaction, because they create turmoil in the unions. This fight is not waged before the public. It is fought in the unions. The public knows nothing of the attempt to weaken trade union morale, which is the red-reaction objective.

As proof that reaction favors the Communists, attention is called to the 1928 report of the anti-union shop committee of the National Association of Manufacturers, which was signed by half a score of prominent employers. They gave this broad hint to employers of this country:

"They (the unions) have endeavored to convince the public that the general organization of labor is the chief bulwark between the preservation of American principles and rampant Sovietism.

"The apparent purpose is to frighten Americans into accepting principles and purposes less radical in outward appearance, but fundamentally quite as dangerous."

Following this plain invitation to employers that they encourage Communists and oppose trade unionists, the committee quoted this statement by President Edgerton of the National Association of Manufacturers:

"The real menace to our American institutions does not come from the relatively small number of Communists who make a great deal of noise, but from that organization which proclaims its right to speak for labor and which places itself above all public regulation."

Edgerton and his associates would destroy the unions because they challenge autocratic control of human beings. These employers would then depend upon government to smash the reds.

The Communists hope to have the unions outlawed that secret revolutionary tactics may be the workers' policy.

Both reaction and revolution make common cause until their single objective—destruction of the unions—is reached.

South Hears Trade Union Story; Green Receives Royal Welcome

Birmingham, Ala., March 8.—President Green's second tour through Southern industrial cities has been marked by record audiences, composed of all classes of citizens.

The trade union executive has discussed the labor problem from every angle and shows how the interests of every person in a community is affected by low wages, long hours, illiteracy, child labor and night work for women, and a dependent attitude of wage earners.

At Atlanta he appealed to the self interest of every person to accept this fact, rather than be swayed by attempts of unintelligent capital in the South to prevent the organization of labor.

In Greenville, S. C., mill managers who were present at the huge meeting were shown a sample of Communists' tactics when the "reds" attempted to heckle the speaker.

In an address to the South Carolina legislature at Columbia, President Green made a forceful plea for the passage of a bill that would outlaw the iniquitous stretch-out system. Such a bill has passed the House. It limits one worker to 48 looms. Workers are now compelled to tend from 48 to 100 looms, doing the work of three men. The A. F. of L. executive reminded lawmakers that South Carolina is one of the four States that have no workmen's compensation legislation.

A mass meeting at Columbia was attended by Governor John G. Richards, Mayor Owens and other State and city officials. The audience tested the capacity of the city's largest theater.

"We are a fixture in the institutional life of our nation," declared Mr. Green. "The workingman understands that it is impossible to raise himself to a better social order or to realize his aspirations by lone effort."

"The creation of markets by industry for industry is an economic necessity," declared President Green at the Macon mass meeting. He appealed for the adoption of labor's program, declaring that paternalism has failed. Higher wages, he said, would do away with a dependent class of thousands who, virtually living under the direction of mill owners, could then care for themselves.

"Cheapness is the curse of the textile industry, harming employer and employed alike," declared President Green at Greensboro. This meeting maintained the record of capacity audiences, which included business men and public officials.

"The A. F. of L. seeks to get children out of factories and put them in schools, playgrounds and homes," he said at Durham. He called attention to the attempt of the Dan River and Riverside Cotton Mills at Danville, Va., to reduce wages in violation of pledges to President Hoover. The Danville corporation established company "union," which it called "industrial democracy." Mr. Green said: "We are organizing at Danville and the A. F. of L. will stand behind the workers there."

In an address to several hundred students and citizens at Chapel Hill, N. C., Mr. Green complimented the University of North Carolina for the liberal spirit that prevails in that institution. He explained the objectives of trade unionism and called attention to the industrial revolution now on in the South. He said the A. F. of L. was responding to appeals of Southern workers to help solve their problems.

At Jackson, Miss., President Green spoke to a joint session of the State Legislature. Governor Bilbo escorted the trade unionist to the session and listened closely to an eloquent defense of the rights of labor. In response to a request for a statement on his views on workmen's compensation, which is now before that State Legislature, Mr. Green pointed to the plans and the need for such a law. He also pleaded for child labor prohibition and explained the difference between trade unionism and communism.

Mr. Green and his party were guests of Governor Bilbo at the executive mansion in the evening.

NEW LATIN-AMERICAN POLICY HINTED BY STATE DIPLOMATS

Washington, March 8.—The Monroe Doctrine is a policy of protection against European meddling in Latin America and should in no sense be a justification for meddling by the United States, declares a memorandum issued by the State Department.

The memorandum is a repudiation of the Roosevelt theory that whenever a Latin-American country has financial or other difficulties the United States should intervene lest some European nation take such action. The Roosevelt theory has resulted in United States Marines in many of these southern countries.

The memorandum indicates a new policy by the State Department because of its declaration that the Monroe Doctrine does not ever "modify" by the United States in affairs of other nations of this hemisphere, except where such nation is actually endangered by a European power.

Former Under Secretary of State J. Reuben Clark, now charge d'affairs in Mexico, prepared the memorandum which is dated Dec. 17, 1928. He says the views set forth "are not authoritative statements, but merely personal expressions of the writer." The fact that the State Department at this time makes the document public, clothes it with the weight of authority and it is regarded as the equivalent of a formal declaration of policy.

The memorandum makes clear that no intervention, such as the sending of marines to Nicaragua, can be justified under the Monroe Doctrine.

The memorandum declares that the Monroe Doctrine "is now and always has been" not an instrument of oppression but a guarantee against imperialistic designs of Europe and is not intended to interfere with the internal affairs of Latin-American countries, as it has been under the Roosevelt theory.

COURT ORDER ASKED TO SILENCE EDITOR

Madison, Wis., March 8.—The State Supreme Court will decide whether an equity court may censor newspaper articles that a public utility corporation claims is liable to inflame public opinion.

The case arose over a campaign started by the Post, a weekly newspaper of North Milwaukee, to secure lower street car fares. The company asked Circuit Court Gustav G. Gehrz for an injunction.

"There must be some curb on the rights of newspapers to attack large corporations," attorneys for the company said. "Our corporations as well as our government must be protected from unwarranted attacks by newspapers."

It is suggested that if this public utility lives up to the purpose for which it was given corporate life, it need not fear attacks from any source.

OPPOSES ANY QUOTA FOR LATIN-AMERICA

Washington, March 8.—The State Department opposes a bill that would place Latin-American countries on the quota basis. The bill has been favorably reported by the House Immigration Committee.

The State Department objects for commercial and political reasons, just as it did when Western Hemisphere insisted on Asiatic exclusion, which was objected to by Japanese. The Department believes that immigration from the Latin-American countries can be regulated by tightening the border patrol along 1,000 miles of the Rio Grande River.

JUICY TAX REFUND FOR STEEL TRUST

Washington, March 8.—A refund of more than $35,000,000 in income and excess profits taxes to the steel trust is expected in the near future.

Other large refunds have been awarded the trust and its subsidiaries. Last December a refund of $25,849,542 was granted to the Carnegie Steel Co., main steel trust unit. Another refund of $3,000,000 was granted in 1928.

The Treasury Department announces refunds to other concerns that run into the millions. The largest of these is $2,562,798 to the Philadelphia Company.

W. L. FUNDER BURK DEAD

Rome, Ga., March 8.—W. L. Funder Burk, member Stove Mounters' International Union, was buried here. He served as president and organizer of his international from January, 1913, to August 1, 1929, and represented his organization at many A. F. of L. conventions.

FIVE-DAY WEEK GAINS

Washington, March 8.—The five-day week, beginning May 1, has been agreed by employers and organized bricklayers, carpenters and iron workers.

LOBBYIST DICTATED COOLIDGE'S MESSAGE

Washington, March 8.—Chester H. Gray, Washington representative American Farm Bureau Federation, and lobbyist for private control of Muscle Shoals, explained to a Senate committee how he and President Coolidge change his reference to Muscle Shoals in a message to Congress.

Gray said Everett Sanders, the president's secretary, "called me by long distance in Chicago to know how we wanted the message doctored to suit us."

Gray identified "Bob" as he wrote to the editor of Southern Ruralist, Atlanta, which stated that the message finally "had an appended sentence which at least made a beautiful straddle out of the Muscle Shoals paragraph."

HOSPITALS ARE FILLED; UNEMPLOYMENT BLAMED

New York, March 8.—Unemployment is directly responsible for a large increase in city hospital patients, according to Dr. Mark L. Fleming, general medical director of several large local hospitals.

The daily average census in the 26 city hospitals was 15,752 for February, 1930, while the daily average last February was only 13,549.

"Many of these patients are from lodging houses," said Dr. Fleming. "Quite a few are elderly men who have chronic complaints. Because they are out of work and destitute, their resistance has been lowered."

"FREE SPEECH" REDS STAGE FAMILY SCRAP

New York, March 8.—Police broke up a family row between right wing and left wing Communists who were swinging chairs at each other in the most approved revolutionary style.

The right wingers were attempting to honor the memory of a deceased comrade who had been expelled on orders from Moscow. The left wingers opposed this move. When a strong arm men to break up the meeting and the ceremony was proceeding in regular form until the police appeared.

Both factions, as usual, condemned the bluecoats for interfering with "free speech."

FEBRUARY IDLENESS BREAKS AFL RECORD

Washington, March 8.—More than one-fifth of all union members reporting were out of work in February, according to the Monthly Survey issued by A. F. of L.

"Unemployment has increased since January and in February reached a point of serious danger," the Bulletin states. "The January figures were higher than ever before in the three winters for which we have records, and February brought it higher by 4 per cent than in any other year.

"In February 43 per cent of building tradesmen were out of work. This is more than two in every five, and is a larger increase from January when 38 per cent were unemployed. In metal trades 18 per cent were idle in February (preliminary figures), as compared to 15 per cent in January.

"Relief organizations are literally swamped with appeals and are sending urgent requests for funds. March usually brings some improvement in employment, but seasonal recovery is not fully under way until April.

"The present widespread suffering must be met by emergency measures. All possible assistance should be marshalled to meet this problem in a constructive way. Public works should be hastened and public relief provided where necessary."

UNION MINERS MEET IN CALLED SESSION

Indianapolis, March 8.—A convention of the United Mine Workers of America was called to meet in this city March 10 by the International Executive Board.

The call states: "The officers and members of all local unions are hereby warned against the attempted accept on on the part of a band of discredited leaders who are trying to set up a dual organization to the United Mine Workers of America.

"By resolution of the International Executive Board, adopted February 25, 1930, the attempt to hold an alleged international convention in Springfield, Illinois, March 15, 1930, was declared to be a dual movement in violation of the laws of the United Mine Workers of America.

"Local unions are therefore advised to take no part in such convention or to aid or assist these destructionists in any particular."

ALL-CANADIAN UNION LOSES TELEGRAPHERS

Vancouver, B. C., March 8.—Commercial telegraphers who broke away from the regular trade union two years ago and joined the "All-Canadian Union" have returned to the fold.

The "All-Canadian Union" appeals to a narrow nationalistic spirit that is encouraged by employers. This spirit is essential to divide Canadian and United States workers who are members of the same internationals, affiliated to the A. F. of L.

WHEN OUR COURTS "FROWN"

Superior Court Judge Blodgett of Providence enjoined moving picture operators from picketing an anti-union theater.

"Picketing is a system that is frowned upon by the courts," said this learned judge.

Well, suppose they do "frown." Or suppose they actually smile. What of it?

No legislature has outlawed picketing. In fact, Congress and many legislatures have legalized this practice.

If workers act in a lawful manner are they supposed to waive their rights when it displeases a court?

Must free men tremble before a frowning—or scowling—judge?

NEW SOUTH AMERICAN POLICY?

A memorandum on the Monroe Doctrine, issued by the State Department, indicates that the policy of placing Marines in Latin American countries on every pretext will be abandoned.

The memorandum claims that the Monroe Doctrine protects these countries against European imperialism and that it was never intended the United States should rush troops southward at every internal disturbance.

Is it possible that our statesmen have discovered that the policy of establishing Marines below the Rio Grande has developed such hate that our products are being boycotted and Europe is capturing these markets?

And is it possible that the pleas for relief by South American countries to the League of Nations at Geneva is creating an awkward situation for Uncle Sam?

RAYON WORKERS OUT; BOSSES BREAK PLEDGE

Elizabethton, Tenn., March 8.—Organized textile workers at the Bemberg and Glanzstoff Bros. plants ceased work because of victimization and broken pledges.

They have been enjoined and their pickets have been gas bombed by deputy sheriffs.

The first strike, last year, was caused by low wages and poor working conditions. The second strike was forced on employes when the management broke their agreement and the present strike has the same background.

The management promised that the workers' union would not be interfered with, but a company "union" has been set up.

Under the agreement that settled the second strike there was to be no discrimination against the 1930 men who declared to be a dual movement in violation of the laws of the United Mine Workers of America.

The workers demand abolition of the fake "union" and recognition of the United Textile Workers. "This is the only means of insuring industrial peace and justice to workers, the community and the company," employes state.

TEXTILE HOURS CUT; UNION ACTION PAYS

New York, March 8.—Organized labor's activity in the textile industry is reflected by the Cotton-Textile Institute's gesture to lower hours.

To promote more regularity of employment and greater contentment among employes," 24 leading cotton manufacturers of New England and the South, it is announced, have agreed upon a shorter working week in their mills.

The proposed plan would reduce the schedule to not more than 55 hours a week for day work and 50 hours a week for night work.

This concession to 55 hours a week is considered by labor a tribute to their power. The employers' hope that a 55-hour week will bring "greater contentment" will not be realized.

INDUSTRY ACCIDENT TOLL PUT AT 15,000

New York, March 8.—Nearly 15,000 persons are killed or maimed for life by industrial accidents in this country every year and another 300,000 receive lesser injuries "for no good reason," declared the Greater New York Safety Council Committee.

Last year 1,307 employes were killed in this city and more than 12,000 injured, the committee's organization for injuries which crippled or disfigured them for life.

UNION LABEL TRADES HONOR JACOB FISCHER

Washington, March 8.—The Union Label Trades Department presented a beautiful engrossed memorial to Jacob Fischer in recognition of his 21 years' service as delegate and officer of that department. He was a vice president for 20 years, and declined re-election last year following his resignation as secretary-treasurer Journeymen Barbers' International Union.

APPLICANTS FOR JOBS MORE THAN POSITIONS

Chicago, March 8.—There were more than two and one-half applicants for every job at State Free Employment Offices in January.

The report shows that the ratio of applicants per 100 positions during the first month of this year was 256.2. This is an increase from 181.8 persons for every job during January, last year, and 177 a month earlier.

SENATE PROBE REVEALS "WATER" IN UTILITIES

Washington, March 8.—The American Gas and Electric Company sold public utilities to itself for $112,129,000 that cost $62,690,000.

The sale was made to a subsidiary. The excess received by the company was $49,438,000, according to A. R. Colton, accountant of the Federal Power Commission, testifying to a Senate committee.

On the next day after the transfer, said Mr. Colbert, the subsidiary "wrote up" the assets it had acquired from it, book value of about $72,000,000 to $139,000,000, more than 91 per cent. The company serves 250 communities in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

OLD AGE PENSION PLAN OPPOSED BY "PATRIOTS"

Washington, March 8.—"Patriots" and anti-union employers joined in opposing old age pensions at a hearing called by the House Committee on Labor.

The "patriots" were represented by the Sentinels of Liberty and a woman representative of the Woman Patriot.

Hostile employers were represented by Noel Sargent, head of the anti-union department of the National Association of Manufacturers.

5-CENT FARE UPHELD

New York, March 8.—The 5-cent fare contract between the city and the Interborough Rapid Transit Company was upheld in the first legal test by any court in a decision handed down by Supreme Court Justice Ingraham. The decision affects both subway and surface lines.

GOLDEN STREAM TO UTILITIES; PROFITS ON "WATERED" STOCK

Washington, March 8.—Investigation by Senate committees and the Federal Trade Commission show a golden stream of profits flow into public utilities.

The Mississippi Power Company, it has been shown, places 63 cents of every dollar paid for electricity in its treasury as net profit.

Or in other words, out of every $48.20 paid by customers, $30.56 is available to the company for interest and profit.

A favorite trick of these utilities is to organize subsidiaries, sell the utility to themselves, increase the "value" by watered stock and demand rates that will pay interest on this water.

These colossal power trusts report higher and higher profits while farms are mortgaged, business lags and unemployment is general," said Senator Black of Alabama in a radio address.

"Special groups, known as 'power millionaires,' are created as if by magic. Cash amounting to $1,500,000 is invested in power stock in 1906 pays dividends of $12,500,000 in 22 years' time, and that sum stock company has a book value of $44,500,000.

"Another company, formed as a holding company by the April, 1926, with $3,500,000 common stock, today shows that same stock on its books to be valued at $60,000,000. Customers are supposed to pay a price for electricity sufficient to pay dividends on this book value.

"A tragic tale of nation-wide deception has been revealed in the investigation by the Federal Trade Commission."

RAILWAY LABOR BOARD ASKED TO ACT ON WAGE CUTS

Chicago, March 8.—The social value of trade unions and the necessity for workers to unite, is of first importance, declared Rev. Fr. J. W. R. Macguire, president of St. Viator College and professor of sociology, in an address to organized teachers in this city.

The speaker also declared that the labor injunction is a denial of liberty and he called for the right of free speech without any "if" or "but."

"If a man advocates principles and ideas with which I do not agree, let him talk and then answer me. That is the doctrine of free speech," said the clergyman.

Fr. Macguire delivered a notable speech at the 1927 convention of the A. F. of L. at New Orleans, in which he said organized labor, in fighting the injunction, "is making a very definite and a very real contribution to the preservation of human liberty in the United States."

In his address to teachers in this city he insisted that all men have the right to express their views.

"What you teachers ought to do is to inculcate in the hearts of the young a love for liberty as it existed in the hearts of our fathers. That kind of liberty is dying a slow death in America today.

"It is the most foolish thing in the world to believe that you can keep millions of people's heads by using a policeman's club or a soldier's rifle.

"Another way our liberties are being taken from us is by the courts. No injunction should be issued except in defense of private property rights. But today an injunction is issued on the statement of an employer that he fears there will be acts of violence. This is already forbidden by statutory law and by right no injunction can be issued where there is protection furnished by statute. Yet the injunction is issued."

POWER TRUST HAS "PLANT" IN FEDERAL POWER BOARD?

Washington, March 8.—The water power bill reached into the Federal Power Commission, declared Senator Norris, who insisted that F. E. Bonner, secretary of the commission, be removed from that position.

Evidence developed by the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee, said Mr. Norris, discloses that Bonner "is in reality a water-power man; that the work of the commission could not be conducted more favorably to the interests of water companies if all the power companies themselves operated the office."

The Senate committee probe revealed differences between Bonner and Wm. V. King, chief accountant of the commission, and Charles A. Russell, solicitor of the commission. King and Russell urged more employes for the commission's activities and reductions in claims for injust valuations and for unjust cost accounts of public utility corporations which were the basis for excessive charges to the public.

When King and Russell urged the House to make needed appropriations, Bonner opposed the plan.

"One common method of mulcting the public," said Mr. Norris, "is for these utilities to organize subsidiaries of which the parent companies own every share. Money is invested and then to hire the subsidiaries to do the work for them; in other words, they sell to themselves and then themselves a large bonus, for instance, to lobby something through Congress or through a State legislature in order that they organize construction companies which they themselves own, and then these construction companies will charge perhaps a percentage on a certain contract or perhaps a large sum over and above the cost in getting the contract; in other words, they are getting something from themselves and then charging it to the public.

"Thus, millions of dollars of alleged value upon which the people must pay rates are put into these various utility companies."

DALE-LEHLBACH BILL IS PASSED BY HOUSE

Washington, March 8.—The Dale-Lehlbach bill, which liberalizes the civil service retirement law, passed the House by a vote of 235 to 17.

The bill has passed the Senate and now goes to conference between representatives of the two branches.

The bill, as passed by the House, contains a tontine provision. That is, $1 a month is deducted from the employes' retirement contribution and placed in a separate fund. Under certain conditions this money will be returned.

Major features of the bill, as explained to the House by Congressman Lehlbach, provide for optional retirement two years before the time allowed in existing law and for substantial annuity increases.

WOMEN'S NIGHT WORK URGED BY FEMINISTS

Albany, N. Y., March 8.—The National Woman's Party joined hands with anti-union manufacturers and restaurant owners in urging a legislative committee to favor the Kirkland-Jenks bill, which would permit night work for women in restaurants.

The feminists are professional and business women who pleaded that prohibition of night work by women is a diabolical plot that male labor has laid to oust female females from "favored" employment.

UNSKILLED EMPLOYES INJURED IN INDUSTRY

New York, March 8.—Mass production and mechanization of industry are factors in increased industrial accidents, according to Frances L. Perkins, State Industrial Commissioner.

"We have gone almost as far as we can in the accident prevention movement on the basis of dollar diplomacy," said Miss Perkins.

"We must often remind people that we killed in industry during the past year as many people as we killed in the World War, and yet we have erected no memorials, no cenotaphs or eternal lights. The men who go up on our skyscrapers and bridges and are killed are brave men and they are performing a social service from which you and I benefit.

"The dead line at 40, of which we have heard so much of late," continued Commissioner Perkins, "has undoubtedly increased our industrial accident rate. The labor saving devices improvements which attempt to substitute a machine for a human mind, a robot for a man of long judgment, have something to explain in this movement."

SPURN "PEACE" PLAN

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 8.—Striking taxi cab drivers rejected a "peace" plan that was intended to end their walk out that has been on since Jan. 12. The vote was 1,153 to 1 against the proposal that would grant a small increase and set up a company "union."

The drivers demand a substantial wage increase and union recognition.

The Parmelee Transportation Company is leading the fight against the cab drivers. The company shows a net profit last year of $1,305,408, as against $729,476 the previous year. This increase of nearly 50 per cent in profits is announced after taxes, interest, depreciation, depletion and other items are allowed for. Despite these immense profits, the company refuses to pay a living wage.

ROBERT LYONS DEAD

Greensboro, N. C., March 8.—Robert Lyons, organizer Hotel and Restaurant Employes' and Beverage Dispensers' International Alliance, died at a local hospital. He had been assisting the Southern organizing campaign.